

*November 21, 2008*

Washington, D.C. – This morning, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that California’s unemployment rate has risen to 5.7 percent.

In response, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) released the following statement.

“This morning we were greeted with more sobering economic news. California’s unemployment rate has risen to 5.7 percent.

“Additionally, Washington Mutual announced last night that it is laying off 1,600 employees in our region.

“As we enter the holiday season, the timing for this announcement could not be worse. My thoughts and prayers are with those affected.

“Fortunately, just this morning, President Bush signed emergency House legislation to extend unemployment benefits.

“I encourage any of my constituents who have questions about this extension, or need help filing for it, to call 1-800-368-5643.

“Too many people are being hurt by this tough economic downturn, which is especially painful with the holidays just around the corner.

“We must address the spate of home foreclosures that devastate families, destabilize communities, and hurt the economy.